

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 131**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to State Employee Appreciation Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2005.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 51, Jerome Horton. State Employee Appreciation Month.

This measure would declare and recognize October 2005, as State Employee Appreciation Month.

WHEREAS, Firefighters keep our communities safe and for firefighters and their families, death and disability benefits are not frills, extras, or perks. These benefits are the modest safety net that catches firefighters when their dangerous jobs catch up with them and their loved ones. The only real security for firefighters and their families comes in knowing that every month, should the unthinkable happen, a check will be there ... to pay the mortgage, to buy food, and to keep the family going; and

WHEREAS, We should honor all of our future firefighters just as we honor those serving in the fire service today and should give every firefighter and his or her family the security they deserve for the dangers they endure. That safety net should not be taken from firefighters and their families; and

WHEREAS, Never before in the history of the fire service has it been more evident that firefighters are California's first response officers. They know there is a chance that when the alarm bell rings, they may not return home. Commitment and self-sacrifice are the essence of the fire service profession. Firefighters risk their lives daily for our safety. These men and women on the front lines selflessly protect our families, our homes, and our dreams; and

WHEREAS, Many firefighters are state employees; and

WHEREAS, The California Highway Patrol officers maximize both service to the public in need of aid or information, and assistance to other public agencies when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, California Highway Patrol officers manage traffic and emergency incidents and in so doing, promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout California, and minimize the exposure of the public to unsafe conditions resulting from emergency incidents and highway impediments; and

WHEREAS, California Highway Patrol officers protect public and state assets by protecting the public, public property, state employees, and the

state's infrastructure and collaborating with local, state, and federal public safety agencies to protect California; and

WHEREAS, Two hundred one California Highway Patrol officers have lost their lives over the last 75 years while serving and providing safety to the citizens of California; and

WHEREAS, California Highway Patrol officers are state employees; and

WHEREAS, During major emergencies, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) may call upon all state agencies to help provide support. Due to their specialized capabilities and expertise, the California National Guard, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the California Conservation Corps, the State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Health Services, and the Department of Transportation are the state agencies most often asked to respond and assist in emergency response situations; and

WHEREAS, The OES Earthquake Program provides specialized earthquake preparedness planning and technical assistance to local governments, businesses, schools, hospitals, the public, and other groups; and

WHEREAS, The OES coordinates search and rescue missions through its Law Enforcement Branch's Search and Rescue Program to locate individuals lost in the mountains or wilderness. Through its Fire and Rescue Branch's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Program, the OES coordinates missions for those trapped by collapsed structures or in other high risk situations. The OES also provides search and rescue task force training for local fire personnel, governments, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Nurses assume responsible leadership in our community, in the nursing field, and work together with other organizations in order to provide all people have the best possible nursing care and health protection; and

WHEREAS, Nurses promote, advance, and ensure safe, therapeutic, and effective health care for all; and

WHEREAS, Registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses (LVN's), and clinical laboratory technologists provide critical care in, among other facilities, state hospitals for the developmentally disabled, facilities for military veterans, and state correctional institutions; and

WHEREAS, Academic and vocational teachers work in special schools for the deaf and blind, state correctional facilities, and developmentally disabled hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Engineering technicians in Department of Transportation, the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Quality Control Board, and the Air Resources Board inspect state highways, water, and water quality, and air testing projects to ensure the safety, security, and quality of the state's infrastructure and to ensure that the state meets environmental quality standards and requirements; and

WHEREAS, Employment program and disability program representatives are responsible for all of the state's unemployment and

disability insurance claims and payments and workers' compensation representatives provide insurance coverage for thousands of small to large size businesses in California; and

WHEREAS, State auditors ensure that the state's revenue programs are fairly and consistently enforced. Also for the consumer's benefit, state auditors supervise banking and insurance operating in California but who have headquarters throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Employees of the Department of Fish and Game annually raise millions of fish for planting in streams and lakes for the enjoyment of, and recreation for, citizens of California; and

WHEREAS, Employees of the Department of Food and Agriculture work on pest exclusion programs to protect the viability of the state's agricultural industry and the consumers ability to rely on stable food protections at affordable costs; and

WHEREAS, The OES staff provides financial recovery services to citizens who are impacted by earthquakes, fires, floods, and other natural disasters. They have provided much needed funds for clean up and rebuilding, including funds for hazard mitigation to thousands of California citizens and to public entities including cities, counties, hospitals, and schools; and

WHEREAS, The state information technology staff has the very difficult job of providing and maintaining information systems hardware and software necessary to manage the states massive and very complex informational needs; and

WHEREAS, State employees from other state agencies provide assistance to the public and perform many functions to ensure that the state operates smoothly; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes and declares October 2005, as State Employee Appreciation Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.